

Application No.: 09/449,851

Docket No.: CIMA 3.0-035

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS


Entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the above-captioned application, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.112, 1.116 are hereby respectfully requested. Because the amendments reflect the proposals of the Examiner, entry thereof are believed to be appropriate and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. No new searching and no new matter should be implicated.

During a telephone interview initiated by the Examiner on January 22, 2004, applicants have agreed to amend the claims as noted above. These amendments include amending claims 1 and 14 to specify that the taste masking and spacing layers each individually having a thickness of between about 5 and about 75 microns. The preamble of claim 1 was also modified. During preparation of this amendment, the undersigned also noted that the term "cores" in the third line of claim 14 was misleading and proposes changing that term to "particles." From the context of the claim, the Examiner will note that this is more appropriate. The dependency of claims 9 and 13 have been amended because claim 8 is canceled hereby. Claims 4, 8, 12 and 21 have also been canceled. Claims 4 and 21 were canceled for the reasons specified in Applicants' Appeal Brief.

After discussing these amendments, the Examiner indicated that the application would now be in condition for allowance. Should any fee be due and owing in this regard, or if there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor. Should the Examiner have any questions, he should feel free to contact the undersigned, at his convenience, at 908-654-5000.

Dated: January 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Michael H. Teschner
Registration No.: 32,862
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicant

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